

SB 1441 (Kuehl)

Bias Free Government Funded Services & Programs

Sponsor: Equality California

What is the purpose of this bill?

State and local governments provide many important services and programs. These include police and fire protection, recreational programs, social services and public schools. Although, under current law, a person cannot be discriminated against in housing, employment, education, or public accommodation on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, a person can still be denied public services on these bases.

Under existing law, individuals applying for or participating in programs and activities operated, administered or funded by the state cannot be discriminated against on the basis of race, national origin, ethnic group identification, religion, age, sex, color or disability. SB 1441 updates this list of prohibited bases of discrimination to include sexual orientation and gender identity. The bill also clarifies protections for any person perceived to have, or be associated with another person who has, any of the characteristics enumerated in this prohibition against discrimination in state operated or funded programs.

SB 1441 (Kuehl) simply ensures that Californians have fair and equal treatment in services provided with the assistance of public dollars.

Who supports the bill?

American Civil Liberties Union, AFSCME, AIDS Project Los Angeles, Asian Americans for Civil Rights & Equality, Attorney General Bill Lockyer, California Association for Nonprofits, California School Employees Association, California Faculty Association, California Teacher's Association, Equality California (Sponsor), Gay and Lesbian Alliance of the Central Coast, Lambda Letters Project, MALDEF, National Association of Social Workers, National Center for Lesbian Rights, and San Francisco AIDS Foundation.